Message and Text Files - UNIX, OpenVMS, Windows

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Messages modules are created and maintained with the IMPORT and EXPORT commands of the SYSERR utility. They are generated from text files and stored as message files with the file extension .MSG in operating system directories.

User-defined messages are stored in the subdirectory ERR of the library on the FNAT or FUSER system file from which the application is executed, the steplib, or the library SYSTEM.

For Natural system messages, the messages module must be located in the subdirectory ERR in the Natural root directory. Natural system messages are stored in eight message modules.

In Window environments, the message files are located in the Natural directories:

FUSER \<*library*>\ERR
FNAT \<*library*>\ERR
Natural \ERR

Below is information on:

- Creating Text Files
- Generating Messages Modules
- Recreating Text Files

Creating Text Files

For Natural system or user-defined messages, the IMPORT function of SYSERR generates a messages module from one text file.

The text files to be used must have a specific layout, as shown in the following example:

Example:

```
NAT
0010
0100
0010E NO MESSAGE TEXT DEFINED!
0020E MISSING/INVALID SYNTAX; UNDEFINED VARIABLE-NAME.
0025E ERROR IN ENTRY FOR NUMBER OF RECORDS TO BE PROCESSED.
0050E INCORRECT FIELD SPECIFICATION IN 'WHERE' CLAUSE.
#PLEASE CHECK PROGRAM
#FOR ERRORS
0100E FUNCTION NOT AVAILABLE.
```

Explanation:

NAT	Group ID (library name) and prefix for the number that will be displayed with the message. It can have up to eight characters.
0010	Four-digit starting number of the range of messages.
0100	Four-digit ending number of the range of messages. All error numbers that are defined in this text file must be within this range.
0010E	NO MESSAGE TEXT DEFINED. This is the message for error number 0010. The **E** is mandatory and means "error". This message will be issued with the statement "REINPUT *0010". Explanatory long texts must be placed immediately below this message; each of these additional lines must start with a hash/number (#) sign. Up to 20 additional lines are allowed.

Generating Messages Modules

Once the text files have been created, you can generate a messages module from the text files with the SYSERR utility.

For user-defined messages, one output error file can be created in one language for each library. Each error file must be in the ERR subdirectory of that library.

Naming Conventions

For user-defined messages, the name of the message file must be:

N*nn*APMSL.MSG,

where *nn* is the language code (01 - 60), for example 01 for English.

For natural system messages, the name of the message file must be:

N*nn*L*mmmm*.MSG,

where *nn* is the language code to be used and *mmmm* the starting number of the message range.
The ranges of message numbers are fix, as defined during Natural system installation, for example:

N01L0000	Messages 1 - 1999
N01L2000	Messages 2000 - 2999

To generate a message text file

1. Enter the IMPORT command of the SYSERR utility.
   The "Import Text File to Message File" dialog box is displayed.
2. In the From input field, specify the name of the input text file from which all information is to be read.
   The full path name of the file must be specified.
   In the To input fields, specify the language and the library of the output error file to be generated.

Recreating Text Files

With the SYSERR utility, you can also recreate a text file for message text maintenance. This is done by reconverting an error messages module into a sequential text file.

To recreate a message text file

- Enter the EXPORT command of the SYSERR Utility.
  The "Export Text File from Message File" dialog box is displayed.
- In the From input fields, specify the language and the library of the message(s) to be used as input.
  In the To input field, specify the name of the text file to be created.
  The text file created will have the same format as an input text file.